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PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	: John Mantegna et al	Art Unit	: 2155
Serial No.	: 09/845,084	Examiner	: S. Quershi
Filed	: April 30, 2001		
Title	: TEMPORAL DRIFT CORRECTION		

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY TO ACTION OF MARCH 30, 2005

In reply to the Office Action of March 30, 2005, Applicant submits the following remarks.

Claims 1-23 are pending, with claims 1, 10, and 17 being independent.

Claims 1-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly obvious over European Patent Application EP 921,666 A2 ("Ward") in view of US Patent 6,710,725 ("Soques"). Applicant thanks the examiner for withdrawing the previous rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and for acknowledging that the position of the previous office action is now moot in light of applicants remarks in reply to that rejection. Applicant now requests withdrawal of the current rejection because neither Ward nor Soques, alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the subject matter of independent claims 1, 10, or 17.

Independent claims 1, 10, and 17, respectively, recite a method, a computer program, and a computer system for temporal drift correction in a real-time electronic communication. As recited in the claims, a size of a receiving data buffer is measured, and the measured size is compared to a predetermined nominal data buffer size. An amount of temporal drift is determined based on the comparison of the measured data buffer size and the nominal data buffer size, a number of samples to be inserted in or removed from a playback data block to correct the temporal drift is determined, and the number of samples in the playback data block is modified to correct the temporal drift.

Thus, as explained previously, there are two levels of granularity of the real-time electronic communication that flows through the receiving data buffer: (1) the communication is